

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stephen B. Parker on August 10th, 2010.

2. The claims should be amended to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of dynamically connecting a client node to a serving network, comprising the steps of:

providing an access network to which a client node has a network connection;
providing at least one access router having a network connection to said access network and having a network connection to at least one serving network;

sending serving network provider advertising information to said client node, said network provider advertising information including a provider identifier advertised per each service provider;

receiving from said client node serving network provider information specifying a serving network to which said client node desires access; and

establishing a secure communication tunnel between said client node and said access router through said access network using information of said serving network as a security association identifier of said secure communication tunnel, such that said client node is able to send and receive data packets to and from the serving network specified by said client node within said secure communication tunnel through said access network.

20. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said step of sending serving network provider advertising information is performed using network layer protocols, ~~communication tunnel is a secure communication tunnel~~, and wherein said establishing step further comprises the step of binding said secure communication tunnel to a specified serving network associated with an access router by using a PANA session identifier or an IP address as said serving network information of said specified serving network as a security association identifier of said secure communication tunnel.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of connecting a client node to a serving network, comprising the steps of:

providing an access router having a network connection to at least two serving networks;

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sending serving network provider advertising information to said client node;

receiving from said client node serving network information specifying a serving network to which said client node desires to have access;

establishing a secure communication tunnel between said client node and said access router through said access network, such that said client node is able to send and receive data packets to and from the serving network specified by said client node within said secure communication tunnel through said access network; and

binding said secure communication tunnel to said specified serving network by using serving network information of said specified serving network as a security association identifier of said secure communication tunnel.

26. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 25, wherein said step of sending serving network provider advertising information is performed using network layer protocols, ~~communication tunnel is a secure communication tunnel, and wherein~~ said establishing step further comprises the step of binding said secure communication tunnel to a specified serving network associated with an access router by using a PANA session identifier or an IP address as said ~~serving network information of said specified serving network as a security association identifier of said secure communication~~ tunnel.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-21 and 25-29 are allowed.

4. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification and the applicant's amendments filed June 28th, 2010 and the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) Opinion dated April 29th, 2010, the Examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record. The prior art does not teach all of the limitations of the independent claims in combination with the other elements presented.

The prior art of record teaches a communication link between a client node and access router (Boden, paragraphs 0039, 0073, 0076; see BPAI opinion pg. 5). The prior art of record further teaches multiple access routers connected via network connections to an original access network and multiple serving networks (Sakov, paragraphs 0029-0035 and BPAI opinion pg. 6). Further, the prior art of record teaches authenticating clients before establishing IPSec secure communication tunnels in a wireless VLAN that uses a Router discovery mechanism (Forslow, paragraphs 0093, 0097, 0108; see BPAI opinion pg. 6).

However, as per claims 1-21 and 25-29, the prior art fails to teach a method of dynamically connecting a client node to a serving network, wherein serving network provider advertising information is sent to a client node, then received by a network provider to establish a secure communication tunnel between the client node and an access router. The tunnel is established using serving network information of the specified serving network as a security association identifier of the secure communication tunnel or a second communication tunnel is established between the

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client and a second router such that the client is able to selectively send a receive data packets through each of the serving networks. These limitations distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art of record when taken in the environment of the full claim language.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas Taylor whose telephone number is (571) 272-3889. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan can be reached on (571) 272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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/NT/

Nicholas Taylor

Examiner

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/Larry Donaghue/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454